

Message Text

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SUBJ: POLITICAL LEADERS' STATEMENTS ON EARLY ELECTIONS

1. FOL NOV 29 VOTE OF NO-CONFIDENCE IN IRMAK GOVT (ANKARA 9319), SEVERAL POLITICAL LEADERS' PUBLIC STATEMENTS OVER WEEKEND INDICATE RENEWED STRESS ON SETTLING ISSUE OF EARLY ELECTIONS (.PERHAPS WITH DATE NEXT SPRING) AS MEANS OF RESOLVING GOVT CRISIS.

A. CARETAKER PRIMIN IRMAK, IN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH TERCUMAN, SAID: "THERE IS A TENDENCY FOR (ELECTIONS IN) JUNE. THERE MAY BE EARLY ELECTIONS IN JUNE OR OCTOBER. IF THE PARTIES CANNOT COME TO AN AGREEMENT ON THE DATE OF ELECTIONS, THERE WILL BE SERIOUS CONCERN. THE DATE OF ELECTIONS IS NOW THE KEY TO THE CRISIS."

B. JUSTICE PARTY (JP) LEADER SULEYMAN DEMIREL, WHOSE
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PREVIOUS RESISTANCE TO EARLY ELECTIONS NOW SEEMS TO BE SOFTENING,

TOLD HURRIEYT INTERVIEWER THAT IF A GOVT CANNOT BE FORMED, ELECTIONS ARE THE ONLY SOLUTION. HE SAID FUTHER: "THE SUITABLE SEASONS FOR EARLY ELECTIONS ARE THE END OF MAY OR BEGINNING OF JUNE, OR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER. AFTER NOVEMBER THE WEATHER IS UNSUITABLE FOR ELECTIONS." HE WENT ON TO STIPULATE THAT HE FAVORED CHANGES IN THE ELECTION LAW TO BRING ABOUT A SYSTEM OF SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES (DAR BOLGELER).

C. MEANWHILE, REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) LADER BULENT ECEVIT, ADDRESSING PROVINCIAL PARTY CONGRESSES IN ESKISEHIR AND BUSA ON DECEMBER 1, REITERATED HIS CALL FOR EARLY ELECTIONS, DECLARING THAT "THE CRISIS IS AT SUCH A STALEMATE THAT NOTHING OTHER THAN EARLY ELECTIONS WILL SOLVE THIS CRISIS."

2. COMMENT: ALL THESE STATEMENTS SHARE THE COMMON THEME THAT EARLY ELECTIONS ARE NECESSARY TO RESOLVE THE CONTINUING GOVT CRISIS. THERE IS WIDESPREAD SPECULATION HERE THAT THE POLITICAL PARTIES WILL NOW ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT AT FIRST BETWEEN PARTY OFFICIALS REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE ELECTION LAW AND DATE FOR EARLY ELECTIONS. THIS TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WOULD THEN BE PRESENTED TO THE PARTY LEADERS FOR FINAL APPROVAL. (A SIMILAR APPROACH TO NEGOTIATING WAS TAKEN LAST JANUARY IN THE TALKS LEADING TO THE FORMATION OF THE RPP-NSP COALITION.) WHEN AND IF SUCH AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED (WHICH MAY NOT BE FOR SOME TIME), THE PARTIES WILL THEN HAVE TO DECIDE ON FORM OF PRE-ELECTION GOVT THEY DESIRE, THAT IS, WHETHER THEY WANT TO SET UP A GOVT BASED ON A COALITION OF TWO OR MORE PARTIES OR WHETHER THEY WISH TO SEE AN IRMAK-TYPE GOVT IN CHARGE DURINGTHE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD.
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